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REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., November 6, 1919

C O N T E N T S

	Page:	Page
Inspecting, Grading, and Branding	: Available Surplus of Tobacco in	
Butter for Export	1: Algeria	5
Canada Exports Eggs Bought in the	: Fixed Price of Frozen Meat in Trieste	5
United States	3: Demand for Cattle Increasing in	
Butter and Bread Rationing Discon-	: Switzerland	5
tinued by Switzerland	3: Reduction in Ocean Freight Rates on	
Shortage of Jam in United Kingdom	: Dressed Meats	6
from January to May Predicted	3: Algerian Grain Surplus To Be Bought	
Argentina Removes Restrictions on	: by France	6
Exports	3: Imports of Wool by the United States	
German Export Trade not Encouraging	3: for September, 1919	6
Amsterdam Firm Desires Agency for	: Reports on Seventh Series of London	
Dried Fruits	4: Wool Auctions	6
Renewal of Exports of Coffee from	: Wool Situation in South Africa	7
Bahia, Brazil, to United States ...	4: Port Situation as to Export Traffic .	7
American Brands of Tea Meet With	: Exports from New York for Week Ended	
Favor	5: October 25	8
British Restrictions on Exports	:	
of Edible Oils Removed	5:	

INSPECTING, GRADING, AND BRANDING BUTTER FOR EXPORT.---"Most dairy-
ing countries carrying on an export trade in butter find sooner or later
that it is a commercial necessity to adopt some universal system of inspec-
tion and of grading and branding with a national brand all butters intended
for shipment to foreign markets," says the Irish Homestead, Dublin, for
August 30, 1919. "The aim, of course, is to secure that uniformity of pro-
duce so advantageous in competitive trading." The system of grading and in-
spection in various dairy countries is given below:

"Ireland.---With the exception of the butter control system of the
Irish Agricultural Organization Society no efforts were made in this country
to market butter under certificate or brand until after the Ministry of Food
in 1917 took over the control of the butter trade, and made arrangements to
pool and grade all the Irish export butter after its delivery in England.
The grading is in the hands of the Irish Butter Export Committee, who have
distributive depots in Great Britain through which all the butters of the
pool pass, and in which the inspection and grading takes place.

"There are four ordinary grades recognized, as well as an extra or
premium class for butters practically perfect in flavor, texture and color
and scoring not less than 96 points."

"The characters scored are: (1) Flavor carrying a maximum of 60 points; (2) texture, 30 points; (3) color, 5 points; (4) packing, 5 points, the whole making a total of 100. In all grades salt must not exceed 3 per cent and water not over 16 per cent, and any excess of these limits is followed by a reduction in price corresponding to the amount of excess.

"The minimum value of each grade as defined by points is as follows: First grade, not less than 90 points; second grade, not less than 84 points; third grade, not less than 78 points; fourth grade, (unfit for table use.)

"New Zealand.---All butters as sent out of the country must be inspected by a Government official, and its grade stenciled on the package. It is also required that the butter be placed in cold storage for at least four days before loading for shipment. A special inspector with a New Zealand experience is located in London to examine all butters as they arrive, and to check the then quality of each batch with its distinctive brand.

"Canada.---The two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan have made great progress during recent years through the standardization of their export butter. It is said that 50 per cent or more of their butter is now of uniform quality. There is no compulsion for creameries to send their butters to be scored, but buyers demand that the butter shall be bought on the Government score-card, and that the price will be determined by the grade. Alberta gets its home supply as well as its export graded, while Saskatchewan follows our own and the New Zealand plan of having only the export butter scored and classified. The Alberta grades are: (1) Special grade, scoring 94 to 100 points, with a minimum for flavor of 41 points; (2) first grade, scoring 92 and under 94 points, minimum for flavor, 39 points; (3) second grade, scoring 87 and under 92 points; minimum for flavor, 37 points; (4) 'off' grade, scoring 37 points.

"Denmark.---This country has only one grade, known as the 'Lur mark.' The grading is under State control, and liberty to use is granted after examinations and satisfactory scorings at the Danish Experimental Station at Copenhagen. Three judges (one State inspector, one butter dealer, and one buttermaker) are engaged in each examination and scoring. Butters are always kept two weeks at the central laboratory at a temperature of 50°F. before scoring. The country is divided into districts, and each district has eight surprise scorings annually, so that any failure to keep up to standard is detected and immediately communicated to Copenhagen. The aim of Denmark is to have only one uniform grade, and that the best.

"Netherlands.---The system in the Netherlands is different from that in any other country, being based upon a chemical analysis of the butter, the aim being to prevent adulteration by the addition of foreign fat or a too high percentage of water. There are eight control stations in the country, the chief being at Leiden. All export butter must have the Government mark upon it with the words 'Nederlandsche Boter Controle.' The control stations are private, but are run under Government supervision; the creameries bearing the cost in proportion to their output of butter. The brand testifies as to composition only, and takes no account of quality as the word is understood in this relation."

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U.S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONEYS.

CANADA EXPORTS EGGS BOUGHT IN THE UNITED STATES.*---According to the weekly report of the Poultry Division of the Canadian Department of Agriculture for October 14, 1919, Canadian shippers are exporting large quantities of eggs purchased in the United States, some going through Canadian ports and some through ports of this country.

At the London market on October 20 English eggs brought \$0.87 per dozen; Irish, \$0.75 to \$0.82; Danish, \$0.78 to \$0.82; Canadian, \$0.62 to \$0.70; American, \$0.57 to \$0.62.

*Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on October 14, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.1875.

BUTTER AND BREAD RATIONING DISCONTINUED BY SWITZERLAND.---According to reports in the Swiss press the rationing of butter was discontinued on October 1. The present domestic production, supplemented by the importations from Denmark, the Netherlands, and the United States (noted in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 29), is expected to supply the needs of the country during the coming winter. Bread rationing was discontinued on September 1.

SHORTAGE OF JAM IN UNITED KINGDOM FROM JANUARY TO MAY PREDICTED.---Report of the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Manchester, England, published in the Canadian Weekly Bulletin for October 6, 1919, bears out our reports regarding a shortage of jam in the United Kingdom. The Commissioner stated that the situation was as follows:

"Though there may be fair quantities on the market during the next three months, it is anticipated that a serious shortage will be experienced from January next until May. The high prices of fruit ruling this summer made it impossible for jam makers to lay down large stocks. For example, raspberries, which were at the high price of \$225 a ton in 1918, rose to \$425 this year; black currants advanced from \$300 to \$525; red currants rose from \$160 to \$250; gooseberries advanced from \$135 to \$230; and strawberries rose from \$200 to \$480. To these enhanced values of the raw material had to be added the increased cost of labor, coal, jars, bottles, etc."

ARGENTINA REMOVES RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS.---The embargo on the exportation of all agricultural commodities except sugar, which was imposed during the war, has been removed, cabled the American Ambassador to Argentina, under date of October 1, 1919.

GERMAN EXPORT TRADE NOT ENCOURAGING.---Reports as to actual conditions in Germany conflict so often that authentic information is of value to the American producer of agricultural products if it indicates the state of Germany's manufacturing activities and need for raw materials. The following statement of the President of the British Board of Trade to British manufacturers, taken in connection with the supercargo reports

published in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 31 and 32, probably indicate the true state of affairs:

"Germany has only small stocks of goods accumulated for export; there is no great manufacturing activity; the costs of production are enormous; Germany can not compete for a long time.

"The Board of Trade were watching carefully the movement of goods into this country. They saw no sign of a devastating torrent of imports.

"Whatever fears you have and whatever temporary spurt of goods may come from Germany in the immediate future, all the information we get from Germany is absolutely contrary to that which you have been giving - and our information is from better sources.

"Beyond a comparatively small quantity there does not appear to be any accumulation of goods in Germany ready for export. Their costs are enormous. In addition, there is an enormous fall in the productivity of Germany, and I am by no means sure that it is possible for her for months, possibly years, to come seriously to compete even with you.

"We have reserved the power - as stated twice in the House of Commons and expressed officially on two occasions in the press - to stop all or any of the imports coming into this country from a country where those imports are made possible and overwhelming by the state of the exchange.

"There is no great manufacturing activity in Germany. Industry is not moving, but is very stagnant. They are short of raw material, and their state is pitiful with regard to coal. Great as our difficulties are here, theirs are infinitely greater."

AMSTERDAM FIRM DESIRES AGENCY FOR DRIED FRUITS.---A firm of importers in Amsterdam, Netherlands, desires agency for dried, evaporated, and canned fruits. This firm states that it is the largest importer of these commodities in the Netherlands, and has facilities for handling an extensive trade for the Netherlands and for Central Europe. If interested, ask for report "aj."

RENEWAL OF EXPORTS OF COFFEE FROM BAHIA, BRAZIL, TO THE UNITED STATES.---The American Consul at Bahia reported, under date of August 29, 1919, that the exportation of coffee from Bahia, Brazil, to the United States was renewed in 1913 after a lapse of several years. As Bahia coffee would not grade with the Rio and Santos classifications, it was considered inferior in quality. However, an experimental shipment was so well received in New York that trade between the two ports has been established, stimulating the interest in coffee raising in Bahia. Bahian coffee now rates in New York with the best Central American grades in quality and price. For the first six months of this year Bahia has exported to New York 35,000 bags of coffee, amounting to 4,629,510 lbs. A bag of coffee weighs 132.28 lbs.

AMERICAN BRANDS OF TEA MET WITH FAVOR in the State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, according to a report of the American Consul at Porto Alegre. The Consul stated that "American quality and prices are right, and propaganda only is needed to create a demand." Small packages of Ceylon and Orange Pekoe teas in lead-foil and tin containers sell readily. It is estimated that about 45,000 lbs. of tea were imported in 1918 through Porto Alegre, mostly well-known English brands.

BRITISH RESTRICTIONS ON EXPORTS OF EDIBLE OILS REMOVED.---On October 23 the American Consul General at London cabled that the British Board of Trade announced the removal of the embargo against the exportation of all edible oils, except coconut, peanut, and palm-kernel, to take effect on October 23. The exportation of coconut, peanut, and palm-kernel oils can be made only under license of the Export License Department.

AVAILABLE SURPLUS OF TOBACCO IN ALGERIA.---The American Consul at Algiers, Algeria, reported to the Department of State, under date of September 25, 1919, that there will be available for export from Algeria this year 2,865,980 pounds of tobacco, or about 10 per cent of the total crop. The French State Tobacco Monopoly usually takes 50 per cent of the crop, but the proportion requisitioned this year will be only 40 per cent. The Government requisition price ranges from \$0.105 to \$0.236 per pound. A premium of \$0.0175 per pound is given for uniformity of bales and bundles of the higher quality tobacco.

FIXED PRICE OF FROZEN MEAT IN TRIESTE.*---The American Consul at Trieste cabled to the Department of State on October 20 that the price of frozen meat has been fixed at \$0.215 per pound. The Consul also cabled that the Government will control the sale of edible oil.

*Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on October 20, when 1 lira = \$0.0935.

DEMAND FOR CATTLE INCREASING IN SWITZERLAND.---According to La Revue Suisse des Marches Agricoles for September 19, 1919, the demand for cattle is becoming more and more pressing, as the scarcity of fodder increases. Consequently the price has increased from \$12.10 to \$16.23 per cwt. (100 lbs.) live weight.

REDUCTION IN OCEAN FREIGHT RATES ON DRESSED MEATS.---The United States Shipping Board announced a reduction in the ocean freight rates on dressed meats to Continental Europe of \$1 per cwt. in response to requests of livestock organizations. The new rate, which is now in effect, is \$3.50 per cwt.

ALGERIAN GRAIN SURPLUS TO BE BOUGHT BY FRANCE.---The exportable surplus of Algerian wheat and barley of the present harvest will be purchased by the Quartermaster's Department of the French Army at the following fixed prices delivered at the dock: Wheat, \$3.15 per bushel; barley, \$1.77 per bushel, reports the American Consul General at Algiers, to the Department of State, under date of September 25, 1919.

Imports of Wool by the United States for September, 1919

Imported from --	: Quantity (pounds) :	Value
Greece	117,019	: 32,612
Italy	23,205	: 11,037
Spain	504,847	: 156,920
Turkey-in-Europe	176,000	: 50,000
England	2,667,593	: 1,267,937
Scotland	1,930,050	: 630,428
Canada	972,819	: 569,758
Guatemala	18,493	: 8,322
Newfoundland and Labrador	17,000	: 11,390
Argentina	25,156,412	: 10,934,358
Bolivia	65,526	: 14,264
Brazil	32,375	: 11,493
Chile	1,668,311	: 764,684
Ecuador	58,000	: 9,167
Peru	141,927	: 71,520
Uruguay	683,753	: 378,469
China	4,559,690	: 1,024,630
Turkey-in-Asia	203,439	: 100,934
Australia	3,446,930	: 2,374,177
British South Africa	5,789,545	: 3,151,109
All others	2,345	: 630
Total	48,235,179	: \$21,573,869

REPORTS ON SEVENTH SERIES OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS*

(Special Reports for Bureau of Markets from American Consul General at London)

The seventh series of wool auctions at London opened on October 27. The total offerings will amount to 210,500 bales, 150,000 on examination and 60,500 bales on description.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on day of sale: Oct. 27 and 28 one pound sterling = \$4.18; Oct. 29, \$4.165.

Catalogs of 11,150 bales were cleared after brisk competition. Merino wools sold at the closing rates of the sixth series up to 5 per cent higher, the higher prices being received for the scoured qualities. Crossbreds showed a rise of 5 per cent for all grades.

Queensland greasy merino wools sold as high as 61-1/2d. (\$1.07). Similar qualities from Sydney reached 60d. (\$1.045), with scoured clips selling from 72 to 88-1/2d. (\$1.25 to \$1.54). New Zealand greasy crossbreds realized as high as 43d. (\$0.836), and slipe crossbred lambs sold up to 52d. (\$0.906).

Offerings of about 9,500 bales on the 28th sold briskly, with a firmer tendency for both merino and crossbred descriptions. The former now realized prices fully 5 per cent above the closing level of the last series, and crossbreds 5 to 10 per cent higher. The latter advance was most pronounced on the medium qualities. The best parcels of choice clips of Sydney greasy merinos, secured chiefly for America and the Continent, realized the record price of 74d. (\$1.289). Scoured merinos from Sydney ranged 48 to 81d. (\$0.836 to \$1.411), with pieces at 60 to 78-1/2d. (\$1.045 to \$1.367). Correspondingly high prices were received for similar qualities from Queensland. British buyers were active among the medium grades of greasy merinos and the prices frequently exceeded the advance mentioned.

At the wool auctions of October 29 there was a brisk clearance of offerings of 9,500 bales at prices showing further improvement in merino wools of from 5 to 10 per cent above the closing level of the last sales. Sydney scoured merinos ranged from 60 to 100d. (\$1.041 to \$1.735). Adelaide and West Australian scoured merinos sold as high as 95 and 88-1/2d. (\$1.649 and \$1.536), respectively. Sydney greasy merinos realized from 36 to 73d. (\$0.625 to \$1.267). New Zealand greasy crossbred wools of all qualities realized advanced rates.

WOOL SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA.---During the five months from January 1 to May 31, 1919, the Union of South Africa exported 92,448,296 lbs. of wool, as compared with 49,959,856 lbs. during the same period of 1918, according to data in the Monthly Trade Report of the National Bank of South Africa, dated July 31, 1919. About 10 per cent of the exports in 1919 were shipped to the United States. This report states that the stocks of combing wools at Port Elizabeth, East London, and Durban are practically exhausted, and that there is a keen demand for them at extreme prices.

PORT SITUATION AS TO EXPORT TRAFFIC.---According to the United States Railroad Administration, applications at Boston for permits covering export traffic are increasing. This is probably due to the continuation of the longshoremen's strike at New York, which has resulted in sending additional export freight to Boston. The British are diverting their traffic from New York to Boston and other ports. One vessel

is in port at Boston, loading with a full cargo of frozen beef for Greece.

The French Government has 10 steamers in port at New York and 5 additional steamers are expected within the next few days. Both French and Italian steamers at port are idle, owing to the prevailing labor difficulties.

Prompt efforts are being made at New York to release refrigerator equipment by having the contents transferred to cold storage warehouses. The terminal manager states that receipts are decreasing, and owing to the intensive unloading of freight to piers, there is a prompt release of equipment. The Marine Director reports an average detention of lighters 14.4 days. No permits are being issued for export freight except on traffic intended for ground storage.

For the week ended October 22 there were in elevators at North Atlantic ports, 17,124,673 bushels of grain. During the week 3,056,801 bushels were received and 1,245,229 bushels were cleared. The total amount of grain in elevators represents 86.7 per cent of the total elevator capacity at North Atlantic ports. At the Gulf ports there were 8,920,204 bushels of grain in the elevators, 83.5 per cent of the total elevator capacity.

EXPORTS FROM NEW YORK FOR WEEK ENDED OCTOBER 25.---Only 46 vessels destined for foreign countries cleared from the port of New York during the last week and the majority of these were in ballast.

Meat and Meat Products.---On October 25th 13,540 pounds of sausages were exported to the West Indies, and 3,306 pounds to the West Coast of Africa. On October 9th 440,200 pounds of lard were shipped to France, and on October 11th 595,655 pounds of lard were exported to Italy. The following are the total quantities of meats shipped during the week: fresh and frozen beef, 46,364 pounds; canned and pickled beef, 40,192 pounds; lamb and mutton, 1,409 pounds; fresh and frozen pork, 52,778 pounds; dry, salt, and pickled pork, 243,453 pounds; bacon, hams, and shoulders, 258,146 pounds; sausage, 125,251 pounds; lard and lard compounds, 2,422,306 pounds; poultry and game, 2,225 pounds.

Fruits and Vegetables.---On September 26th 3,771 boxes of apples were exported to South America. On October 4th 1,101 crates of onions and 2,174 barrels of potatoes were shipped to the West Indies.

During the week 96,744 pounds of Cheddar cheese and 131,800 pounds of condensed milk were exported to Italy. The United Kingdom took 177,950 pounds of condensed milk during the week. The following quantities of dairy products were exported on October 25 to ports on the west coast of Africa: 3,146 pounds of butter; 2,550 pounds of cheese; 7,378 pounds of condensed milk; 26,632 pounds of evaporated milk.

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OF THE

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EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF MARKETS
FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., November 13, 1919

CONTENTS

	Page :		Page
Better Packing and Marking of South American Exports Necessary	1 :	Wool Position of the United Kingdom	5
The Importation of Agricultural Commodities Controlled by Italian Government	2 :	Wool Imported by the United States in Prewar Times and during 1919	6
Restricted List of Exports from Netherlands East Indies	2 :	Embargo Continued against Importation of Apples into Australia	7
Fixed Prices of Sugar in the United Kingdom	2 :	Australia Permits Importation of Oranges and Lemons	7
Fixed Price of Sugar in Denmark ..	2 :	Frozen Potatoes in Saskatchewan ..	8
Movement of Egyptian Cotton of 1918-19 Season	3 :	Market for Preserves, Jams, and Jellies in Costa Rica	8
Needs of Textile Industries of Belgium	3 :	Prices of Cattle in Milan, Italy ..	8
Increased Guaranteed Price of Australian Flax	4 :	Importers of Butter in Germany ...	8
Special Reports of London Wool Auctions	4 :	List of Principal Lumber Dealers in Fernie, British Columbia	8

PACKING

BETTER PACKING AND MARKING OF SOUTH AMERICAN EXPORTS NECESSARY.--- The Division of Operations of the United States Shipping Board has received a report from one of its supercargoes returning from Buenos Aires to the effect that faulty packing and poor marking of United States goods shipped to South American destinations are interfering with the best interests of our exporters. The following excerpts from his report are of importance to exporters of agricultural products:

"From my observations on the trip to Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina, it is my belief that too much stress can not be laid on the necessity for better packing of American goods for the South American export trade.

"All the oil shipments in barrels were in more or less bad order, which was caused by filling them up in the north in cold weather and not allowing for the expansion for the heat of the Tropics. This caused the barrels to expand to such an extent that when the warm weather was struck south of the Equator the hoops stretched to such an extent that they allowed the staves to loosen, causing a large leakage. It will be necessary to see that the barrels are not filled so full and that a well-coopered barrel is used for this trade. Prac-

tically every cargo of American oil landed in Argentina is in the same condition. I have this statement from the custom-house man, and I observed that the oil cargoes of other ships in port looked much the same.

"In the case of marks for export the United States shippers are far behind the English. It will be necessary for the shippers to use fewer marks and use larger letters, making the mark as simple as it is possible to do. As it is now, the cases are covered with trade marks, instructions, etc., all in small letters, which, in addition to the shipping marks, make it very hard for the foreign laborers to make out just what is the mark, and this causes delay and confusion."

TRADE REGULATION

THE IMPORTATION OF AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES CONTROLLED BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.---The Italian Government controls the importation of the following agricultural commodities under Government monopoly: Cereals, including rice, oats, dried vegetables and their flours; meats, frozen, salted, and canned; bacon; condensed milk; oil seeds; sugar; tea; coffee and coffee substitutes, and tobacco.

RESTRICTED LIST OF EXPORTS FROM NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.---According to the American Trade Commissioner in the Netherlands East Indies, export licenses are required for the following agricultural commodities only: Rice, products of the cassava plants, pepper, sago, poultry, and cinchona bark.

PRICES AND SUPPLY OF FOODSTUFFS

FIXED PRICES OF SUGAR IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.*---Agricultural Trade Commissioner Edward A. Foley cabled to the Bureau of Markets on November 4, 1919, that the British Food Controller had set the following maximum prices for sugar, effective November 3, 1919. Class 1: Cubes, loaf sugar, pastor icing - wholesale price \$15.01 per cwt. (112 lbs.), discount 1-1/2 per cent; retail price \$0.152 per lb. Class 2: Crystals, granulated, crushed and chips, West Indian grocery crystallized, yellow crystals, dry white sugar, white pieces moist - wholesale \$13.76 per cwt.; retail \$0.139 per lb. Class 3: Raw brown cane crystals, West Indian muscovado moist, pieces other than white, West Indian grocery sirups - wholesale \$13.18 per cwt.; retail \$0.136 per lb. Class 4: Knots and lumps, jellies, West Indian and other British colonial sirups to be sold only to manufacturers - wholesale, "free"; retail, no maximum price set.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on November 3, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.17.

FIXED PRICE OF SUGAR IN DENMARK.---The Danish Government has requisitioned the sugar beets of the crop of 1919-20, guaranteeing to the producers \$0.584 per cwt. (100 lbs.). The fixed wholesale price for sugar is \$3.52 per cwt. However, the price to the consumers will be slightly less, and the difference between the wholesale and retail price will be borne by the Govern-

ment and the industries which use sugar. In order to prevent the latter from purchasing sugar from foreign countries, the Government has taken over all importation of sugar.--Journal des Fabricants de Sucre, Sept. 24, 1919.

COTTON

MOVEMENT OF EGYPTIAN COTTON OF 1918-19 SEASON.---"For statistical purposes the Egyptian cotton year begins on September 1 and ends on August 31," reports the American Consul at Alexandria, Egypt, under date of October 7, 1919. With the exception of a very small amount, all Egyptian cotton is pressed at Alexandria and is exported from that port; therefore the statistics published by the Alexandria General Produce Association cover practically the entire movement. The following table shows the movement of the 1918-19 crop and the stocks on hand on August 31 of this year.

	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Stock at Alexandria, September 1, 1919	...109,627,876	
Receipts	477,483,481	587,111,357
Exports	537,507,615	
Local consumption	5,621,846	
Destroyed by fire	103,011	543,232,472
Total stock on hand August 31, 1919		<u>43,878,885</u>

The exports amounted to 718,309 bales (537,507,615 lbs.) and were shipped to the following destinations:

	<u>Pounds</u>	::		<u>Pounds</u>
England	344,046,958	::	Dutch East Indies	7,483
Spain	7,809,215	::	Italy	36,911,936
United States .	71,284,155	::	Portugal	187,074
France	58,731,493	::	Greece and Syria	1,947,066
Japan	16,582,235	::	Total	537,507,615

1919-20 Crop.---According to a cablegram from the American Consul General at Alexandria, dated November 7, 1919, the Egyptian cotton crop for 1919-20, is estimated at 594,000,000 pounds.

FLAX

NEEDS OF TEXTILE INDUSTRIES OF BELGIUM.---"The Committee for Belgian Reconstruction of the Ministry of Economic Affairs has just completed an investigation concerning the present state of certain Belgian industries and their resumption of activity. The report of the Committee shows that the flax industry sustained a loss of 40,000 spindles out of 357,000 during the war. About 7,000 tons of flax are necessary to keep in operation during the next six months one-third of the spindles left intact; 1,500 tons of Belgian flax have already been purchased and 1,000 tons of Russian flax have recently been secured from France. Previous to the war the Belgian flax industry used but little of the fine Belgian flax, which was exported largely to England. Large quantities however, of coarse Russian flax were used here

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(80,000 tons in 1913) and arrangements are being made by which the fine flax of Courtrai may be exchanged in England for the coarser Russian and Irish flax. A special Belgian commission is now in Russia for the purpose of purchasing Russian flax directly.

"Hemp was imported largely from Italy and India, and jute principally from India. The Belgian industries have had great difficulty in securing these raw materials." - Fortnightly Information Review of the American Chamber of Commerce in France, Oct. 1, 1919.

INCREASED GUARANTEED PRICE OF AUSTRALIAN FLAX.---The Commonwealth Government of Australia has increased the guaranteed price of flax from \$24.33 to \$29.19 a ton, according to a report of the Vice Consul at Melbourne. The Federal Flax Industry Committee supplies the seed to the farmers at \$3 a bushel. In Victoria double the acreage was sown this year, compared with last year.

WOOL

SPECIAL REPORTS OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS*

(Cabled Reports for Bureau of Markets from the American Consul General at London)

Nine thousand bales of colonial wools were offered at the sales on October 30. Sydney merino greasy clips ranged from 30 to 71d. (\$0.52 to \$1.23) per lb. Pieces and bellies sold as high as 46-1/2 and 47-1/2d. (\$0.81 and \$0.82) respectively. A record price of 104d. (\$1.80) was realized for the best parcels of scoured merino combings from Queensland. The best Victorian scoured crossbreds brought 75-1/2d. (\$1.31); New Zealand greasy crossbreds realized 40-1/2d. (\$0.70). In this sale there were included 330 bales of slipe crossbred free wools from Australia and Punta Arenas, which brought as high as 57 and 56-1/2d. (\$0.99 and \$0.98), respectively.

On October 31 the 9,725 bales offered were quickly cleared. Greasy and scoured merinos from Sydney, New South Wales, and Queensland realized up to 72-1/2 and 90d. (\$1.26 and \$1.56), respectively. Greasy merino clips from South Australia and West Australia were briskly bid for. The best of the former brought 57-1/2d. (\$1.00), while the latter sold for 65d. (\$1.13). Slipe crossbred lamb's wool from New Zealand sold as high as 57-1/2d. (\$1.00), and greasy crossbreds up to 43d. (\$0.75).

A description sale was held on November 1, when 20,900 bales were offered. As compared with the description sale on October 4, both merinos and crossbreds sold fully 10 per cent higher. The merino selection was comprised principally of scoured qualities from Sydney, New South Wales, and Queensland. The following prices were received for clothing wools: 64's and upwards 90-1/2d. (\$1.57); 70's and upwards 87-1/2 to 88d. (\$1.519 to \$1.528). Lamb's wool sold for 86-1/2d. (\$1.50). Good averaged carding pieces and bellies sold as high as 77 and 84-1/2d. (\$1.34 and \$1.47) respectively. American buyers secured 9,085 bales of New Zealand crossbreds at the follow-

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on date of sale:
Oct. 30, 1 pound sterling = \$4.1575; Oct. 31, \$4.1675; Nov. 1, \$4.1675;
Nov. 3, \$4.17; Nov. 4, \$4.17; Nov. 5, \$4.1675.

ing prices. The best of the greasy 56's, 46d. (\$0.30); 50's, 45d. (\$0.78); 48's to 50's, 41d. (\$0.71); 46's, 39d. (\$0.68); 44's to 46's, prepared, 44d. (\$0.76); 40's, 26d. (\$0.45); 35's to 40's, 14d. (\$0.42). Slip crossbreds brought as high as 54 d. (\$0.94) for both 50's and 48's to 50's.

The sales of inspected wools were resumed on November 3 with a large attendance. The offerings of 10,500 bales met with a brisk sale. The merino wools brought practically the same price as during the previous week, while fine greasy crossbreds frequently showed a further improvement of 5 per cent. The best parcels of the latter from Victoria ranged from 48 to 62-1/2d. (\$0.83 to \$1.09). Similar qualities from New Zealand, although not equal in condition to the Victorian clips, were readily disposed of at prices ranging as high as 50d. (\$0.87). The best parcels of Sydney greasy merinos realized 67d. (\$1.16).

At the wool auctions on November 4th 9,775 bales were offered. Inferior merinos brought fully 15 per cent above the closing level of the preceding auction. Good quality merinos and fine greasy crossbreds maintained an advance of 10 per cent, while medium grades of the latter were 15 to 20 per cent higher. Coarser grades advanced 5 to 10 per cent. The best Victorian scoured clips reached the record price of 105d. (\$1.82). The finest Sydney wools sold as high as 98d. (\$1.70); pieces brought 88-1/2d. (\$1.54) and greasy wools 67-1/2d. (\$1.17); New Zealand crossbreds, chiefly greasy, brought as high as 57d. (\$0.99).

On the 5th 10,000 bales were offered. A hardening tendency was in evidence on late advances for wools of all descriptions. There was keen bidding for the small supply of Australian merinos and the finer grades of greasy crossbreds from Victoria, the prices frequently showing a further increase of 5 per cent. Sydney and Queensland greasy and scoured merinos met an active market, the best Sydney greasy merinos ranging from 48 to 67d. (\$0.83 to \$1.16). Queensland scoured pieces brought as high as 97-1/2d. (\$1.69) per lb.

WOOL POSITION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.---The Director of Raw Materials of the British Ministry of Munitions has published in the Board of Trade Journal for October 9, 1919, "the following estimate of the statistical position of the United Kingdom in the purchase of Australian and New Zealand wools:

<u>General Position</u>		<u>Bales*</u>
Stock on shore, United Kingdom, September 1, 1919		910,000
Afloat for United Kingdom, September 1, 1919		163,000
Stock in Australia, September 1, 1919		980,000
Stock in New Zealand, September 1, 1919		380,000
Total stock, September 1, 1919		2,433,000
Next Australian clip, Oct., 1919 - June, 1920		2,000,000
Next New Zealand clip, Dec., 1919 - March, 1920		575,000
Total		5,008,000
Expected deliveries for consumption, Sept., 1919-Dec., 1920 -		
Direct to foreign ports	800,000	
Deliveries, United Kingdom,		
225,000 bales monthly	3,600,000	4,400,000
Expected surplus, December 31, 1920		608,000

*A bale of Australasian wool weighs approximately 330 lbs.

Australasian Position

Bales*

Stock in Australia and New Zealand, September 1, 1919	1,360,000
New clips, 1919-20	<u>2,575,000</u>
	3,935,000

Expected Shipments

Bales

To United Kingdom from Australia and New Zealand, Sept.-Dec., 1919, 175,000 bales monthly	700,000
To United Kingdom from Australia and New Zealand, Jan.-Sept., 1920, 225,000 bales monthly	2,025,000
To United Kingdom from New Zealand only, Oct.-Dec., 1920, 40,000 bales monthly	120,000
To Antwerp, Genoa, Boston, Dunkirk, Japan, etc., 1919-20	<u>800,000</u>
Available for extra shipments	<u>290,000</u>

United Kingdom Position

Bales

Stock on shore, United Kingdom, September, 1919	910,000
Afloat for United Kingdom, September, 1919	163,000
Shipments from Australasia, Sept.-Dec., 1919, 175,000 bales monthly	700,000
Shipments from Australasia, Jan.-Sept., 1920, 225,000 bales monthly	2,025,000
Shipments from New Zealand, Oct.-Dec., 1920, 40,000 bales monthly	<u>120,000</u>
Total	3,918,000
Deliveries at the rate of 225,000 bales per month, Dec., 1920	<u>3,600,000</u>
Stock in United Kingdom or afloat for United Kingdom, December 31, 1920	<u>318,000</u>

"The composition, according to grades, of the 5,008,000 bales unsold on September 1, 1919, is roughly estimated to be as follows:

	<u>Per cent</u>		<u>Per cent</u>
Merino combing	34	:: Medium crossbred combing ...	13
Merino clothing	8	:: Low crossbred combing	9-1/2
Merino carbonizing	5	:: Crossbred clothing	2-1/2
Fine crossbred combing ...	17	:: Crossbred carbonizing	5
		:: New Zealand slipes scoured.	5

"In explanation of the above estimates it should be pointed out that they are based on the assumption that the whole of the Government-owned wool in Australia will be shipped by the end of September, 1920, and in New Zealand by the end of December, 1920."

*A bale of Australasian wool weighs approximately 330 pounds.

"WOOL IMPORTED BY THE UNITED STATES IN PREWAR TIMES AND DURING 1919.---
There has been some question as to the amount of wool that the United States imports, several inquiries seemingly evincing surprise that any large quantity is imported by this country. As the following table will show, the imports of wool during the 5-year prewar period 1910-1914 averaged 207,583,742 pounds annually. As the population of the United States has been increasing so have the imports of wool. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1918, we imported 379,129,934 pounds. During 1919, the total importation amounted to 424,414,644 pounds, or more than double the prewar average. From January to

August, inclusive, of the present year (8 months) more wool was imported than during any of the prewar years mentioned, and if the present average monthly imports of 36,233,982 pounds is maintained throughout the remaining months of this year, we shall import something more than 430,000,000 pounds during the present calendar year.

Imports of Wool into the United States
for Fiscal Years Ending June 30

<u>Year</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	::	<u>Year</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
1910	263,928,232	::	1914	247,643,869
1911	137,647,641	::	1918	379,129,934
1912	193,400,713	::	1919	422,414,664
1913	195,293,255	::		

Monthly Imports in 1919

<u>1919</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	::	<u>1919</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
January	27,453,584	::	June	40,201,770
February	19,767,094	::	July	28,609,986
March	21,286,216	::	August	40,233,600
April	26,347,301	::		
May	24,990,594	::	Total	289,911,861

FRUITS, NUTS, AND VEGETABLES

EMBARGO CONTINUED AGAINST IMPORTATION OF APPLES INTO AUSTRALIA.---

The American Consul General at Sydney, Australia, is in receipt of a communication from the Department of Trade and Customs of Australia, stating that the question of lifting the embargo on the importation of apples into Australia has been carefully considered, but that in view of the large stocks held at present in Australia, it has been decided not to permit importations of apples this year. Inasmuch as the market for imported apples in Australia is favorable only during the months of October, November, and December, the question of lifting the embargo in January is not of importance. Early fruit from Queensland and New South Wales is on the Australian market at that time and the prices fall rapidly. According to the Canadian Weekly Bulletin for October 13, 1919, "it is the opinion of some dealers that hereafter Australian growers who have stored fruits for late markets and high prices will strongly oppose importations even in the month of October, which would leave two months only for importation from abroad."

AUSTRALIA PERMITS IMPORTATION OF ORANGES AND LEMONS.---The Consul General at Sydney, Australia, cabled to the Department of State, under date of October 24, 1919, that oranges and lemons may be imported into Australia up to $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the average quantity imported annually by each importer during the period from July 1, 1915, to July 30, 1918, or, at the option of the importer, from July 1, 1917, to July 30, 1918. Importations will be subject to quarantine restrictions imposed as follows by proclamation: "Provided that Citrus fruits may be imported from the States of Arizona and California subject to the condition that each consignment is accompanied by an official certificate dated and signed by a responsible

officer of a Government department of country of origin giving the name of the State wherein grown, identifying the fruit, stating the quantity, and certifying: (a) that the fruit was grown in the specified State; (b) that in said State Citrus-canker does not exist; (c) that the consignment is free from Citrus-canker and from all other diseases."

FROZEN POTATOES IN SASKATCHEWAN.---Under date of October 27 the American Consul at Regina, Saskatchewan, issued the following report as a warning to American importers of Saskatchewan potatoes:

"I have noticed of late that a considerable amount of potatoes are being shipped from this Province to different places in the United States, principally Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, and Chicago, Illinois, and for the information of the public I wish to state that this Province of Saskatchewan has experienced some very heavy frost in the first part of October and at the present time practically the entire Province is covered by snow, the thermometer registering as low as 15° below zero, the coldest month on record. Consequently a great many potatoes have been frost-bitten before they were taken out of the ground, and I understand in the northern part of the Province that at least half of the potatoes have been frozen. Importers should be very cautious in buying potatoes in this Province at the present time."

MARKET FOR PRESERVES, JAMS, AND JELLIES IN COSTA RICA.---According to the American Consul at Port Limon, Costa Rica, dated October 14, 1919, there is a good demand in the Limon Consular District for preserves, jams and jellies. Guava jelly is made by Costa Rican jam makers but aside from that practically all of that class of goods must be imported. These commodities are preferred in tin or glass containers No. 1 size, about 14 oz. The names of two concerns handling these preserves, etc., may be obtained from the Bureau of Markets by asking for report Costa Rica 127625.

LIVESTOCK AND MEATS

PRICES* OF CATTLE IN MILAN, ITALY.---According to Il Sole, Milan, for October 12, 1919, the following were the range of prices of livestock in the Milan market on October 10, live weight: Oxen, \$14.20 to \$15.30 per cwt. (100 lbs.); cows \$14.70; calves, \$20.40 to \$27.50; bulls, \$13.10 to \$15.10.

*Conversion made the rate of exchange prevailing on October 10 when \$1.00 = 9.92 lire.

TRADE OPPORTUNITIES

IMPORTERS OF BUTTER IN GERMANY.---The names and addresses of importers of butter in Berlin, Hamburg, and Leipzig, Germany, may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets by asking for list "ak."

LIST OF PRINCIPAL LUMBER DEALERS IN FERNIE CONSULAR DISTRICT OF BRITISH COLUMBIA may be had upon application to the Bureau of Markets by asking for report Canada 127700.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

STATES RELATIONS

NOV 2 1919

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., November 20, 1919

C O N T E N T S

	Page :		Page
Announcement of "The Market Reporter"	1	: Exports of Sugar from Java.....	5
Prospects for American Fruit in the United Kingdom	2	: Big Deal in South African Sugar	5
Relaxation of British Export Embargo on Fruits and Oils and Fats	4	: Maximum Wholesale Meat Prices in the United Kingdom	6
British Maximum Retail Prices for Dried Fruits	4	: Improvement of Cattle by Brazilian Government	6
Poland Controls Imports of Articles of Prime Necessity	4	: Provisional Program of London Wool Auctions for 1920	6
Low Rates for Foreign Currency	5	: Special Reports of the London Wool Auctions	7
		: Average Prices for British Grain	8

ANNOUNCEMENT OF "THE MARKET REPORTER"

Beginning about January 1, 1920, "The Market Reporter," a periodical of general interest devoted to marketing information concerning important agricultural products, will be published weekly by the Bureau of Markets. It will be sent free to those interested who make request for it to the Bureau of Markets, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., and who give the following information: (a) name and full address, (b) business or occupation, (c) kind or kinds of farm products in which interested, and (d) the names of periodicals or reports (mimeographed or printed) that are being received or have been received regularly from the Bureau of Markets or any other branch of the United States Department of Agriculture.

George Livingston

Acting Chief of Bureau.

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U. S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONIES.

PROSPECTS FOR AMERICAN FRUIT IN THE UNITED KINGDOM*

By Edward A. Toley,

American Agricultural Trade Commissioner at London

Profits on Fruits Restricted.---Before discussing the fruit situation in the United Kingdom and its relation to the prospects for American fruits, I wish to call attention to the decision of the British Food Controller to limit the retailer's profit on fruits. This regulation is not yet in effect in all parts of the country. Just what the margin of profit will be is left to the Food Control of the various sections of the country. At the time of writing this report (October 24) the profit allowed the retailer in the Birmingham section had been set at $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent -- that is, fruit must be sold to the consumer at not more than $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent above the maximum price allowed the wholesaler.

This margin of profit would be probably more than fair if it were not for the fact that perishable products deteriorate and rot, and such a profit may be insufficient to cover the losses from such sources.

If the other districts follow the lead of Birmingham, and I have reason to believe that they will, a radical change will be made in the retailing of American and other fruits. The retailer will buy a week's supply of apples and a smaller supply of the more perishable fruits; he probably will not take any chance of loss through deterioration. This will throw the stocks back on the wholesaler, who has in most cases no storage facilities and who is also bound by the maximum price fixed when the value of the pound sterling in New York was around \$4.60. It may also disturb the equilibrium of the markets. Under the old system the retailer fell back on his accumulation in the cellar when there was a shortage in the wholesale market. As he probably can not afford to carry a reserve supply under the new system he must go without supplies during the shortage. This regulation will also tend to reduce further the price to the producer, as the wholesaler must carry the loss by deterioration and will recoup this loss from the sale of the fruit, which he must sell at the fixed maximum price, or lower. This condition is one that should be watched very closely, as the margin between profit and loss has been very close this year. It might be well to notice that the era of high war-time wages is over and that there is considerable unemployment. These two factors were absent in last year's market conditions.

Apples.---It is difficult to get a very accurate estimate of the 1919 apple crop of Great Britain. However, 230 odd inquiries showed that 100 placed the crop at normal, 80 over the average, and 50 under the average. The supplies are pouring into the London and other markets in large quantities at lower prices; hence, it is safe to say the crop is larger than has been produced for some years. The prices of English cooking apples range from \$1.50 to \$2.10 per bushel; dessert varieties, \$2.10 to \$4.20 per bushel. Many of the most careful importers are dubious of the success of the importations of apples into Great Britain this year. At the present time American apples can be bought for \$0.60 per box less in Liverpool than in Boston.

*This report is the first of a series on the prospects for American fruits in the United Kingdom. The next article will appear in an early number.

American barrelled varieties have been ranging from \$8.35 to \$14.10 per barrel, but in many cases the fruit has been out of condition, and the prices, therefore, have been unsatisfactory. However, fruit arriving in sound condition and well graded brings the maximum price. A few consignments of American boxed apples have arrived and have sold for an average of \$3.75 per box.

Considerable quantities of apples from Nova Scotia have been arriving, the prices ranging from \$5.20 to \$13.55 per barrel. A great many of these apples also have arrived out of condition and have brought unsatisfactory prices. With a reported Nova Scotia crop of from 1,000,000 to 1,500,000 barrels, the majority of which find their way to the English markets, and a large domestic crop, careful attention must be paid by American exporters to this market, especially until the absorption of the home crop.

I am not at all pessimistic about the outlook for American apples in this market, but I do want at this time to urge shippers to be careful of conditions here, especially as the margin of profit is so close. And, above all, must Americans be careful of their pack. High-class, well-graded apples will bring the maximum price, but ungraded stock falls into competition with the ungraded home stock and is slaughtered.

And there is a lot of this ungraded home stock. Every huckster's cart around London is filled with it.

Pears.---British pears range from \$2.10 to \$6.67 per bushel; American pears from \$6.25 to \$7.30 per box. The condition of many California Bartlett pears left much to be desired. Those on the London market really were not fit for sale. Some pears, however, arrived in excellent condition and brought a good price.

Grapes.---Large quantities of Almeria grapes are usually absorbed in the British markets. Late heavy frosts, however, have affected the shipping and carrying qualities of these grapes and their importation has about finished. It is quite possible that the American grape could be successfully introduced at this time. A small shipment of Malagas from California has recently arrived in good condition. They have only the competition of the hot-house muscatel at \$0.62 to \$2.50 per pound; therefore, if the American grape can be landed here successfully, there is every reason to believe that a successful import trade can be established.

Oranges.---The orange situation is also interesting and encouraging. It is reported on good authority and it is in fact generally conceded that the Spanish crop in Valencia is only a moderate or a light to moderate one. The crop in the adjoining districts, Murcia, Denia, Gandia, etc., is reported to be good. The Spanish growers insisted on high prices during the war and are maintaining them now. These conditions should allow American, especially California, oranges considerable scope at remunerative prices. The arrivals of Murcias so far have realized \$5.00 to \$7.30 per half-box; Valencias \$7.90 to \$9.00 per half-box.

The Jaffa crop is only a moderate one, estimated at 500,000 to 750,000 boxes. This is said to be about one-eighth of the 1914 crop. The shippers are here trying to obtain advances on this crop, as the cost of material and labor there is very high. The freight is expected to be about \$1.70. It is anticipated that one-half of this crop will be used for the demands of Turkey and Egypt.

As in apples and other fruit so in oranges the study of market conditions is a prerequisite of success. A high price in a market indicates a shortage on the market on the auction day but is absolutely no indication of the number of boxes of produce in transit to that market. Uninformed American shippers frequently noticing these prices ship large consignments to the market only to find that a good many others equally uninformed have done the same thing. The inevitable result has been a glut, and the fruit has been sacrificed to the hucksters to get whatever was possible out of the consignment.

RELAXATION OF BRITISH EXPORT EMBARGO ON FRUITS, FRUIT PRESERVES, OILS, AND FATS.---The American Consul General at London cabled on November 5 that the British Board of Trade has granted an open general license for the exportation of fruits, fruit preserves, and oils and fats, including blends of two or more edible oils or fats, except coconut oil, peanut oil, and palm-kernel oil.

This action will permit the reexportation to the continent of American fruits if the British market becomes glutted.

British Maximum Retail Prices for Dried Fruits*

(Price per pound; effective Oct. 24, 1919)

Variety.	Price	Variety	Price
Goldens	\$0.310	Dried peaches and nectarines	\$0.276
Raisins, all varieties	.276	Dried pears	.356
Seeded muscatels (in cartons)	.294	Dried apricots	.414
Currants	.242	Persian dates	.104
Figs	.207	Egyptian dates	.172
Dried apples and apple rings	.259	Tunis & Algeria dates	.310
Dried plums and prunes	.276	Tunis & Algeria dates (in cartons)	.414

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on November 10 when 1 pound sterling = \$4.145.

POLAND CONTROLS IMPORTS OF ARTICLES OF PRIME NECESSITY.---A special department has been established by the Government of Poland for the purpose of purchasing commodities of prime necessity, says the Kurjer Warszawski, Warsaw, for August 23, 1919.

This department, which is under the control of the Ministry of Supply, has the sole right within Poland to import or to issue permissions for import from abroad of articles of prime necessity, and it will sell such articles at prices calculated to include only the recovery of the office expenses.

The following articles are regarded as articles of prime necessity, and therefore come within the scope of the new department's activities: Rye, wheat, oats, barley, millet, buckwheat, maize, rice, pulse; oleaginous, pasture, and other seeds; rye, wheat, and other flour, crushed grain, bran, poppy seed and linseed cakes, malt, hay, straw, potatoes, cabbages, onions and other vegetables; horned cattle, rams, sheep, swine, live fowls, various meats, fish, herrings, sardines, bacon, lard, melted grease, edible oils, preserves, butter, cheese, eggs, sugar, tea, coffee, cocoa, marmalade.

LOW RATES FOR FOREIGN CURRENCY.---According to the Federal Reserve Board, the cable rate on the pound sterling on November 15 was but \$4.1075, the lowest yet reached. On the same day the German mark dropped to \$0.025, as compared with the par of exchange of \$0.2382. That is, one dollar would purchase 40 marks. At par one dollar would buy only 4.19 marks. The Polish mark, with a par value the same as the German mark, reached a low level of \$0.0195. One dollar would buy 51.2 marks.

The Austrian krone is hovering around \$0.0085; i.e., 117.64 kronen could be bought for \$1.

On the 15th the French franc was worth \$0.105 as compared with the par value of \$0.193; i.e., 9.52 francs equal \$1.

The Italian lira is hovering around \$0.063, with 12 lire selling for \$1. This is a slightly better rate than has been prevailing.

Exports of Sugar from Java for the Crop Years
April 1 - March 31, 1914 - 1919

(Tons of 2,240 pounds)

Destination	1914-15	1915-16	1916-17	1917-18	1918-19
Netherlands	11:	412:	31,809:	---	---
United Kingdom	551,768:	234,940:	548,980:	317,955:	142,847
France	14,449:	72,949:	69,592:	34,468:	55,536
Belgium	851:	---	---	---	---
Norway	---	---	11,855:	19,780:	44,272
Italy	---	---	20,724:	---	5,495
Greece	---	---	---	11,793:	5,162
Switzerland	---	---	---	---	6,528
Suez	---	19,835:	11,918:	18,231:	28,870
Port Said, for orders..	61,235:	40,321:	25,117:	12,205:	19,438
United States(all ports):	---	---	---	---	7,423
Vancouver	---	---	6,007:	3,514:	17,658
Singapore	63,226:	52,949:	60,212:	157,736:	363,230
China	23,571:	18,458:	6,947:	2,314:	31,961
Hongkong	131,102:	181,572:	136,729:	163,654:	308,792
Japan	107,753:	48,244:	49,369:	90,802:	439,396
British India	335,384:	451,703:	407,016:	336,736:	343,480
Australia	6,922:	45,652:	25,292:	---	30,000
Siam	4,864:	9,401:	16,138:	21,397:	3,612
Argentina	---	---	---	---	5,201
Vladivostok	---	---	---	---	2,958
Egypt	---	---	---	---	2,844
Other countries.....	12:	---	---	141:	100
Total	1,301,148:	1,176,606:	1,427,241:	1,190,726:	1,864,801

BIG DEAL IN SOUTH AFRICAN SUGAR.---According to the African World, London, it is reported that the British Government has purchased 175,000 tons of sugar from Mauritius at \$248.19 a ton, or \$43,433,250. This is believed to be the biggest sugar purchase on record. The average price of South African sugar is \$121.65 a ton.

Maximum Wholesale Meat Prices in the United Kingdom*

(Price per 100 lbs.; effective October 6, 1919)

Beef		Mutton and lamb		Pork		Veal	
	: Home-	: Home-	: Home-		: Home-		
: Imported	: Killed	: Imported	: Killed	: Imported	: killed	: Imported	
(Carcass): (Hinds.)	: (Carcass)	: (Carcass)	: (Carcass)	: (Carcass)	: (Carcass)	: (Carcass)	
\$25.90	: \$23.30	: \$27.20	: \$22.00	: \$27.60	: \$24.60	: \$18.10	: \$15.10
: (Foreqrs.)	:	:	:	:	:	:	:
: \$18.10	:	:	:	:	:	:	:

In ascertaining weight, the offals are to be excluded. In the case of pork, other than imported, the maximum rate of \$27.60 per cwt. is applicable if the offals are not included in the sale, and the maximum rate shall be \$0.10 higher if the offals are included in the sale. In each case the weight of the offals shall be excluded in ascertaining the weight of the carcass.

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on November 10 when 1 pound sterling = \$4.145.

IMPROVEMENT OF CATTLE BY BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT.---The Brazilian Government realizes the necessity for improving the quality of Brazilian cattle, according to the British Board of Trade Journal for October 23, 1919. In the Chamber of Deputies at Rio de Janeiro, the Minister of Agriculture, Commerce, and Industry, in submitting the estimates for his Department for the next year, estimated that there are 30,000,000 head of cattle in Brazil at the present time, including 20,000,000 cows, of which 12,000,000 are fit for breeding purposes. For the proper crossing of these herds the Minister stated that it will be necessary to import 120,000 bulls during the next 10 years, or an average of 12,000 bulls per year, and he therefore requested an increase of the appropriation for this purpose from \$364,987 to \$3,649,875.

Provisional Program of London Wool Auctions for 1920

Series	Dates	Series	Dates
J	: Jan. 5 - 23	: O	: July 5 - 23
K	: Feb. 9 - 27	: P	: Aug. 16 - Sept. 3
L	: Mar. 15 - 26	: Q	: Sept. 23 - Oct. 8
M	: Apr. 19 - May 7	: R	: Oct. 25 - Nov. 12
N	: May 31 - June 18	: S	: Nov. 29 - Dec. 17

Description sales will also be held.

SPECIAL REPORTS OF LONDON WOOL AUCTIONS*

(Cabled Reports for Bureau of Markets from the American
Consul General at London)

At the wool auctions on November 6 about 8,500 bales were offered and brought prices showing the recent firmness for all qualities. Two-thirds of the offerings of crossbred varieties were from Victoria, Sydney, New South Wales, and New Zealand. Greasy pieces and bellies sold up to 49 1/2d. (\$0.86) per pound, greasy comeback pieces reaching 58 1/2d. (\$1.01). Greasy merinos from Sydney ranged from 47 to 69d. (\$0.82 to \$1.20). Similar qualities from Tasmania varied from 60 to 71d. (\$1.04 to \$1.23). The best scoured merino clothing wool from Queensland and scoured combings from Victoria realized 98 1/2d. (\$1.71). The best greasy Cape free wools sold for 39d. (\$0.68) and scoured 70 1/2d. (\$1.21). Russian greasy merinos ranged from 27 to 30d. (\$0.47 to \$0.52). Punta Arenas greasy crossbreds varied from 33 to 51 1/2d. (\$0.57 to \$0.89).

At the wool auctions on the 7th offerings of 10,250 bales of all descriptions were quickly cleared at prices favorable to the sellers. Sydney greasy merinos sold within a range of 44 1/2 to 73 1/2d. (\$0.77 to \$1.28). Queensland scoured combing wools sold as high as 93 1/2d. (\$1.62) and pieces at 86 1/2d. (\$1.50). Similar grades from West Australia realized 94 and 85 1/2d. (\$1.63 and \$1.48), respectively. In a large assortment of crossbred clips from Victoria the best of the greasy descriptions reached 58 1/2d. (\$1.02); scoured 63 1/2d. (\$1.19). Correspondingly high figures were obtained for a liberal supply of lamb's pieces and bellies. New Zealand greasy crossbreds ranged up to 59d. (\$1.02), while 225 bales of greasy crossbred lamb's from Buenos Aires cleared within a range of 16 1/2 to 21d. (\$0.29 to \$0.36).

On the 8th the second sale of uninspected Government colonial wools was held, when 10,985 bales of Sydney scoured merino clips and 10,648 bales of South Australian greasy merinos were offered. Both showed fully 10 per cent rise, compared with the sale of November 1. All were virtually cleared. Scoured qualities sold within a range of 50 to 103 1/2d. (\$0.86 to \$1.79); greasy merinos ranged up to 57d. (\$0.99). Sydney scoured merino qualities of 80's and upwards, very choice clothing wools under the mark "Tocrate," ranged from 97 1/2 to 103 1/2d. (\$1.69 to \$1.79); 64's and upwards, carding fairly free, varied from 83 1/2 to 84 1/2d. (\$1.44 to \$1.46); 70's and upwards, supercarding free, 94 1/2d. (\$1.53); 64's and upwards, good average carding, 80 to 86d. (\$1.38 to \$1.47). A large assortment of clothing lamb's wool sold up to 79 1/2d. (\$1.37) and pieces up to 77d. (\$1.33). Adelaide 64's to 70's deep-stapled supergreasy fleece realized 67d. (\$1.16); 64's 59d. (\$1.02) and 60's to 64's quality a like value.

At the wool auctions on the 10th the sales of inspected wools were resumed with a full attendance. Eleven thousand bales were offered. Sydney greasy combing merinos rose fully 15 per cent higher than the last series. The best parcels of greasy merino pieces sold within range of 60 to 80 1/2d. (\$1.07 to \$1.39). Queensland scoured merino clips, best combing, reached 100d. (\$1.73), clothing 88d. (\$1.52), and pieces 87d. (\$1.503). New Zealand greasy crossbreds sold as high as 58d. (\$1.01).

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on date of sale:

Nov. 6, 1 pound sterling = \$4.165; Nov. 7, \$4.165; Nov. 8, \$4.1475; Nov. 10, \$4.145; Nov. 11, \$4.135; Nov. 12, \$4.1225; Nov. 13, \$4.135; Nov. 14, \$4.12125.

On November 11 the offerings covered 10,500 bales. All sold at the full advances recently paid for both merino and crossbred clips. The best parcels of Sydney greasy merinos sold within a range of 70 to 83d. (\$1.21 to \$1.43). Victorian wools, mostly scoured crossbred, and New Zealand offerings, mainly greasy crossbred, ranged up to 76 1/2 and 56 1/2d. (\$1.31 to \$0.97), respectively. South African free wools, best snow-whites, realized 93 1/2d. (\$1.61) and greasy 46 1/2d. (\$0.30). Sydney scoured merino combing wool reached 77d. (\$1.33); greasy 47d. (\$0.31). Buenos Aires greasy crossbreds sold as high as 55d. (\$0.95).

At the wool auctions on the 12th 11,300 bales were offered and briskly cleared. Late enhanced rates were readily paid for greasy crossbreds from New Zealand and for Sydney greasy merino clips, while scoured merinos reached record prices, the best of these, which were from New Zealand, realizing 107 1/2d. (\$1.85). Those from Queensland brought 106d. (\$1.82), those from Victoria 103 to 105d. (\$1.77 to \$1.80).

On the 13th 11,350 bales were offered. There was an active demand from all sections. The finer grades maintained their recent firm position, but medium and coarse qualities showed an easier tendency. Australian merino wools, however, ruled at the highest point of series, the finest of the greasy merinos from New South Wales ranging from 72 to 83 1/2d. (\$1.24 to \$1.44), while superior scoured combing merinos realized 116d. (\$2.00); other lots ranged up to 110 to 112d. (\$1.90 to \$1.93); 1,500 bales of South African free wools found a ready sale at prices ranging up to 101d. (\$1.74) for super-snow-whites and 53d. (\$0.91) for greasy combing wools.

The seventh series of the auctions of "shown" wool terminated on November 14, with brisk sale of 10,500 bales. The prices realized for a choice collection of Victorian scoured merino combings surpassed all previous records, the best parcels bringing from 100 to 123d. (\$1.72 to \$2.11). The greasy portion of merinos sold at the recent high figures, and a large quantity of greasy crossbreds included in the New Zealand wools readily cleared on the recent firm basis of values. An easier tendency was noticeable than on previous day's sale, the quantities of coarse descriptions having entirely disappeared.

During this series the total offerings of inspected wools, amounting to 150,000 bales, were practically all sold at prices comparing favorably with the closing levels of September. At the October auctions merino wools showed a rise of 15 per cent, crossbreds of fine growth 10 to 15 per cent, medium qualities 15 to 20 per cent, and coarser about 10 per cent.

Average Prices per Bushel Received for British Grain during
the Week Ended October 25, 1919, and the Same Week in 1912 - 1918

(Compiled from Returns made to Board of Agriculture and Fisheries)

Year	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Year	Wheat	Barley	Oats
1919* ...	2.22	\$2.391	\$1.733	1915 ...	\$1.528	\$1.40	1.38
1918	2.201	1.832	1.532	1914 ...	1.15	.859	.717
1917	2.15	1.827	1.307	191391	.356	.579
1916	1.91	1.557	.998	1912 ...	1.01	.967	.81

*At the rate of exchange prevailing on October 25, 1919, the average prices for the week were per bushel: Wheat \$1.91; barley \$2.50; oats \$1.46.

REPORTS ON FOREIGN MARKETS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

STATES RELATIONS SERVICE

DEC 2 - 1919

EXPERIMENT STATION FILE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE BUREAU OF MARKETS FOREIGN MARKETING INVESTIGATIONS

Washington, D. C., November 28, 1919

C O N T E N T S

	Page :		Page
International Egg Conference..	1 :	Increase in Imports of Spanish	
Why American Eggs Should be	:	Filberts	5
Graded	2 :	Importers of Dried Fruits in	
Scotch Merchant Desires to	:	the Netherlands	5
Import Eggs	3 :	Export Duty on Indian Hides	
Retail Prices for Condensed	:	and Skins May Affect	
Milk in United Kingdom	3 :	American Supply	5
Retail Prices of Chilled Beef	:	Careless Baling of Raw Cotton .	5
in Rome	3 :	Description Sale of Colonial	
Australia Sells Second-Quality	:	Wools at London	6
Wheat to Japan	3 :	Exports from Argentina	6
Wheat Requirements for 1919-20	4 :	Chinese Import Regulations	7
Provisions Expedited to United	:	World's Visible Supply of	
Kingdom	4 :	Coffee	7
Spanish Sour Oranges Purchased	:	Food Situation and Agricul-	
by London Jam Factories.....	4 :	tural Needs of Germany	7
	:	Trend of Foreign Exchange	8

HANDLING AND PACKING EGGS DISCUSSED AT INTERNATIONAL EGG CONFERENCE.--

The recent conference of the International Egg and Poultry Instructors and Investigators held in London was attended by American Agricultural Trade Commissioner Edward A. Foley, who has forwarded the following report.

"The first subject under discussion was the new railway rule that each egg should be separately packed in its own compartment before the railways will accept the case for shipment at company's risk. This means that at the present time no eggs will be accepted at company's risk. Neither the American, as well as Canadian, Danish nor Irish eggs are so packed as to bring them under the conditions of this rule.

"Danish eggs are placed in wood wool; Irish in straw, and American and Canadian in cardboard containers. The American container would be acceptable if each egg were wrapped in paper before being placed in its section in the container. A resolution was adopted protesting against this rule as impracticable and as imposing an unnecessary hardship on the shipper.

"A resolution demanding that expert freight handlers be used by the transportation companies was also adopted. Considerable evidence of serious

NOTE.---UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED, CONVERSIONS OF FOREIGN PRICES INTO U.S. MONEY HAVE BEEN MADE AT THE PAR VALUE OF THE FOREIGN MONETIES.

damage to eggs through the careless or inexpert handling by the railways was presented.

"The merits of the Irish, Danish, and American methods of packing were then brought up. The Danes were well satisfied with their form of case, claiming that with proper packing it was less liable to damage, because its size and weight necessitate its handling by several men, whereas one man can handle the Irish or American case.

"The Irish case, in which the eggs are packed in straw, came in for some criticism. Irish eggs seem to come into English markets in poor condition, but those taking part in the conference did not seem able accurately to place the blame. Considerable blame was laid to shipping facilities across the Irish sea and rough handling here. It would appear that the Irish method of packing eggs between substantial layers of straw is not a bad one if properly followed, but the Irish packing seems to be carelessly handled.

"Very little was said of the American and Canadian packing. A half-day was spent at Tooley Street inspecting the various packings. The Irish eggs shown were perhaps not representative, but were in very poor condition. The Danish eggs, packed in wood wool, showed up to advantage. The Canadian eggs, a special sample, showed up quite as well as the British. These eggs were packed in the regular export cases with excelsior cushions on the tops, bottoms, sides, and ends. I do not think the breaks average much higher than the Danish. However, no figures of actual shipments were adduced to show the comparative values of the cases.

"The main objection to the American case was the fact that sometimes the eggs are too large for the compartments and are broken. This they claim does not occur in Irish or Danish cases, which have no individual compartments. However, it is only fair to add that while exhibiting the results of careless railroad handling, Danish cases the outside of which were unbroken showed a serious loss through breakage."

WHY AMERICAN EGGS SHOULD BE GRADED.---The following editorial from the Canadian Farm, Toronto, for October 15, 1919, explains why American eggs bring lower prices on the British markets than those from any other principal exporting country except China.

There is no reason why our eggs with proper selection and grading should not bring fully as good prices in Great Britain as eggs from Canada. As a matter of fact, quantities of eggs bought in the United States are being exported by Canada to the mother country.

"One of the most successful developments in recent years in our trade abroad is that of eggs. During the seven months of the present year Canada's export trade in eggs has equaled in extent the whole of the export trade in this particular line in 1918. This is not due to greatly increased production of eggs, but to the better methods in which the business is being handled. All eggs for export are graded and standardized by Government experts, so that the buyer in Britain knows just what he is getting when he buys Canadian eggs. This has resulted in an unprecedented demand for Canadian eggs in the old land, which is only limited by the supply. It has given Canada the preference over American eggs, and greatly increased our export trade in Britain. To such an extent is this true that the Canadian consumer to a large extent has to depend upon American eggs for the home supply. In fact, with their product losing ground in the British market owing to the superior quality of Canadian graded eggs, the Americans are seeking an outlet for their

surplus in Canada. Or in other words, dealers in Canada catering to the home trade have had to buy in the American market. The result of this is that a large quantity of American eggs are coming in that are not standardized and are sold as the Canadian product. In the interest of the Canadian consumer steps should be taken to have this American product graded before being placed upon the Canadian market. It is not fair to the home consumer that Canadian eggs should be graded and shipped out of country and their place taken by an ungraded American supply."

SCOTCH EGG MERCHANT DESIRES TO IMPORT AMERICAN EGGS.---A wholesale dealer in eggs in Scotland desires to get into touch with American exporters of eggs with a view to importing direct. For the name and address of this merchant request trade opportunity "a1."

Maximum Retail Prices for Condensed and Evaporated
Milk in the United Kingdom*

(Price per can; effective November 1, 1919)

Kind	Unit	Price	Kind	Unit	Price
Full cream:			Full cream:		
Sweetened...	14 oz. net	\$0.258	Unsweetened...	12 oz. net	\$0.189
do	7 oz. net	.138	do	6 oz. net	.104
Evaporated...	16 oz. net	.207	Machine-skimmed...	14 oz. net	.207

*The wholesale prices are 6 shillings (\$1.24) per case below the retail prices.

Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on November 10 when 1 pound sterling = \$4.145.

FIXED RETAIL PRICES OF CHILLED BEEF IN ROME.*---The following retail prices for chilled beef in Rome, Italy, were fixed on October 15 by the Syndical Council (Gabinetto del Sindaco), according to a report to the Department of Commerce from the Secretary to the American Commercial Attache at Rome: Forequarter, with bone, \$0.18 per pound; hindquarter, with bone \$0.26; lean meat, without fat or bone, \$0.34.

AUSTRALIA SELLS SECOND-QUALITY WHEAT TO JAPAN.---According to the Pastoral Review, Melbourne, Australia, for August 16, 1919, the Wheat Commission of Victoria has sold to Japan 1,512,000 bushels of second-quality wheat, 1,400,000 bushels at \$1.365 and 112,000 bushels at \$1.488.

The same publication is authority for the statement that the Australian Wheat Board has decided not to grant the British Government an option until December 31, 1919, on the purchase of 18,666,666 bushels of wheat, "in view of the hardening tendency of the world's market and the uncertainty of the next harvest."

*Conversion made at the rate of exchange prevailing on November 18 when 1 lira = \$0.084388.

Estimated Requirements of Wheat for 1919-20 by the
Principal Importing Countries

(Quantities expressed in bushels of 60 lbs.)

Country	: Estimated : Crop	: Normal : Consumption	: Estimated : Imports 1919-20
United Kingdom	76,000,000	272,000,000	196,000,000
France	184,000,000	360,000,000	128,000,000**
Italy	156,000,000	*256,000,000	88,000,000
Spain	133,600,000	144,000,000	12,000,000
Portugal	6,400,000	8,800,000	4,000,000
Greece	4,000,000	?	12,000,000
Holland, Switzerland, & Scandinavia	28,000,000	69,600,000	40,000,000
Belgium	8,000,000	64,000,000	56,000,000
Total without Central Europe			536,000,000
Germany	88,000,000	208,000,000	120,000,000
Austria-Hungary, Czechoslovakia	144,000,000	216,000,000	72,000,000
Total for Europe			728,000,000
Ex-Europe			40,000,000
Grand total			768,000,000

*A substantial increase on the prewar average to allow for the additional population and increased consumption.

**The quantity is reduced to allow for the effect of high prices.

--Table compiled from Broomhall's Corn Trade News, Sept. 16, 1919.

PROVISIONS EXPEDITED TO THE UNITED KINGDOM.---According to the United States Railroad Administration, the British Ministry of Food states that it is in urgent need of more provisions, and in order to relieve the situation, 83 carloads of provisions have been taken from the warehouses at Jersey City, and the 900 to 1,000 carloads of provisions in storage for British account at various places in New York State are being loaded into cars as fast as possible. Efforts will be made by the British Government to cooperate in the delivery of its traffic during the present shortage of lighterage equipment to the extent of supplying lighters and trucking some of the freight.

SPANISH SOUR ORANGES PURCHASED BY LONDON JAM FACTORIES.---According to a cablegram received from the American Consul at Seville, Spain, under date of November 21, 1919, the sour-orange crop is estimated at 175,000 half-chests of 60 kilograms (132.28 lbs.) each. The Consul cabled that the greater part of the fruit, which is in magnificent condition, has been contracted for by London jam factories, there being only about 20,000 half-chests available for export to other countries. The present price is 30s. (\$7.29) per half-chest, f.o.b. Seville. Labor strikes have hampered the picking of the fruit.

HEAVY INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF SPANISH FILBERTS.---Spain has rapidly forged to the front within the past two years as one of our principal sources for filberts. During the fiscal year of 1918 the United States imported 17,366,979 lbs. of unshelled filberts. One-fourth of them was imported from Spain. Practically all the shelled filberts imported by the United States in 1918 came from Spain. The growth of our trade in these nuts with Spain has increased rapidly. In 1914 only 684,642 lbs. of unshelled filberts were brought into this country from Spain. Our imports in 1918 amounted to 4,497,620 lbs., an increase of 457 per cent. The increase in our imports of shelled filberts was even more remarkable. In 1914 we imported 216,524 lbs.; in 1918, 3,119,428 lbs., an increase of 1,341 per cent. The unshelled nuts are shipped in bags containing 128.7 lbs., the shelled in bags holding 91.7 lbs.

IMPORTERS OF DRIED FRUITS IN THE NETHERLANDS.---A list of the importers of dried fruits in the Netherlands may be obtained upon application to the Bureau of Markets by requesting list "am."

EXPORT DUTY ON INDIAN HIDES AND SKINS MAY AFFECT AMERICAN SUPPLY.---The imposition of a duty of 15 per cent upon all hides and skins exported from British India, which was noted in Reports on Foreign Markets No. 27, probably will be seriously felt in the markets of this country. India is one of the principal sources of our supply of goatskins, buffalo hides, and calf-skins; in fact, without India our supply of goatskins and buffalo hides would be cut in half. The following table gives the imports of these raw materials for the fiscal year 1919 and also for the two preceding fiscal years.

Imports of Hides and Skins from British India
for the Fiscal Years 1917-1919

Commodity	1919	1918	1917
Goatskins lbs.	41,967,890	31,341,809	43,473,823
Sheepskins ... lbs.	4,217,285	2,490,592	5,091,787
Buffalo hides lbs.	5,554,297	3,961,118	18,651,491
Calfskins lbs.	2,854,382	1,904,988	17,320,275
Cattle hides.. lbs.	2,096,708	594,171	14,327,054

In 1919 the United States imported 89,004,528 lbs. of goatskins. Of this amount 41,967,890 lbs. came from India, 47 per cent. Out of a total importation of 9,514,989 lbs. of buffalo hides, 58 per cent were imported from India. Fourteen per cent of our calfskins and 7 per cent of our sheepskins also came from the British colony.

CARELESS BALING OF RAW COTTON.---Raw cotton from the United States "arrives in France in an extremely bad condition almost invariably, the bales bursted upen and the cotton yards deep in the holds of the vessel," says the Fortnightly Information Review of the American Chamber of Commerce in France for October 15, 1919.

DESCRIPTION SALE OF COLONIAL WOOLS AT LONDON

(Special Report for Bureau of Markets from American Consul General at London*)

On November 15th 17,835 bales of colonial wools were offered "on description." Merino wools with the exception of those from Victoria were fully 5 per cent higher than the prices received at the uninspected wool sale of November 8; crossbreds ruled somewhat irregular. The best of the greasy merino combings were from Victoria, selling at better prices than those obtained during recent sales of inspected wools. Several choice lots of 70's to 74's quality ranged from 82 to 87 1/2d. (\$1.40 to \$1.50). Sydney 70's to 74's realized 79d. (\$1.35); 70's to 80's and upwards 78 1/2d. (\$1.34); scoured merino combing skin wool 64's and upwards ranged from 109 to 117d. (\$1.87 to \$2.00) and similar qualities from Victoria 100 to 109d. (\$1.71 to \$1.87).

*Conversion made at rate of exchange prevailing on November 15, when 1 pound sterling = \$4.1075.

Exports of Various Agricultural Commodities
from Argentina for the First Seven Months of 1919

(From Report of the American Consul General at Buenos Aires, August 9, 1919)

Destina- tions	Wheat (Tons)	Corn (Tons)	Linseed (Tons)	Oats (Tons)	Butter (Cases)	Wool (Bales)	Beef (Quarters)	Frozen & chilled	Frozen Mutton & Lamb (Carcasses)
United Kingdom...	73,817	202,437	67,129	12,356	385,981	13,748	1,589,205		785,546
United States...	---	164,899	166,166	164,453	---	57,745	---		12,311
France...	70,429	6,566	5,723	10,228	9,242	20,033	993,101		133,217
Belgium...	22,358	72,917	22,222	6,686	675	7,186	---		---
Italy...	74,806	8,480	---	4,737	9,334	12,001	120,691		---
Netherlands	92,019	44,351	33,415	2,394	---	7,271	1,380		---
Sweden,									
Norway...	97,017	121,289	10,353	20,570	15,331	4,154	---		---
Denmark...	4,550	57,166	12,416	---	265	4,116	---		---
Spain...	126,941	29,415	800	1	5,610	1,437	---		---
Brazil...	143,089	1,148	456	47	---	---	---		---
For Orders	443,361	298,489	39,410	57,229	---	---	221,754		27,710
Other countries:	37,616	50,120	1,350	---	---	665	---		---
Totals...	1,186,003	1,057,277	359,440	114,248	426,438	128,356	2,926,131		953,784
7 months									
1918 ...	2,151,100	202,745	263,735	262,857	340,797	157,970	3,273,193		666,173
7 months									
1917 ...	756,364	667,905	52,594	223,234	174,926	226,354	3,308,448		978,976
7 months									
1916 ...	1,536,642	1,278,699	441,655	476,455	166,091	191,242	2,916,036		1,327,000
7 months									
1915 ...	2,338,197	2,216,583	695,693	45,111	115,624	225,265	2,289,073		828,323
7 months									
1914 ...	905,568	1,683,149	737,262	340,709	60,334	224,692	812,461		1,405,461

CHINESE IMPORT REGULATIONS.---According to a cablegram from the American Consul General at Shanghai, China, imports will not be passed by the Chinese Maritime Customs on and after October 30, 1919, unless they are accompanied by invoices and other documents. American exporters therefore should always mail invoices so that they will arrive with the cargo.

WORLD'S VISIBLE SUPPLY OF COFFEE.---The following statistics have been compiled from data furnished by the British Minister to Brazil, and published in the British Board of Trade Journal.

<u>July 1, 1919:</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Estimated supply in Brazil	2,314,900,000
Estimated supply in other countries...	661,400,000
Total world supply	2,976,300,000
Estimated world consumption	2,381,040,000

<u>July 1, 1920:</u>	
World visible supply	595,260,000
Estimated production of Brazil	1,388,940,000
Estimated production of other countries	661,400,000
Total world supply	2,645,600,000
Estimated world consumption	2,381,040,000
<u>July 1, 1921:</u> World visible supply	264,560,000

FOOD SITUATION AND AGRICULTURAL NEEDS OF GERMANY.---The British Government has published recently the results of an investigation on the food conditions and agricultural situation of Germany. Dr. Ernest H. Starling investigated the food conditions, while Mr. A. P. McDougall, Chief Livestock Commissioner for Scotland, and Mr. C. W. Guillebaud, of Cambridge, reported on the agricultural conditions.

The report is based on observations made during two trips to Germany to obtain accurate, first-hand information. The first visit was confined to Cologne, Bonn, Coblenz, and Trier in the occupied territory, while the second was made to Berlin and Kattowitz, in Upper Silesia. Inasmuch as authentic information as to conditions generally in Germany are lacking, it is the intention to publish weekly such excerpts from this report as indicate markets for American agricultural products and the economic condition with which our exporters will have to deal.

The following excerpts will show briefly the prewar and war food situation, the mental attitude of the people, and their immediate needs:

"In the 25 years before the war the German population increased from 48,000,000 to 67,000,000. During this time there was practically no emigration from the country. The striking development both in agricultural production and in the industries of the country provided work and food for this increase in population. This development was due mainly to the appreciation by the nation as a whole of the value of science, and to the application of scientific methods in agriculture, as well as to the exploitation of the scientific knowledge, gained during the last half century, in commerce and industry for augmenting the wealth of the community. This was obtained by careful selection of crops, and by scientific use of manures, the profits of industry enabling the country to spend large amounts in the importation of manures and concentrated feeding-stuffs; so it came about that in spite of

the great increase of population, the German Empire was very nearly self-supporting. It would be correct to say that of the food consumption by her population, about 85 per cent was produced within the borders of Germany herself.

"Germany began the war with a considerable margin of food above her requirements, and a diminution of 15 per cent, the amount introduced by importation, should not have caused any serious underfeeding of the nation as a whole, especially if the food remaining were properly distributed among the different classes of the population.

"The more highly evolved the economic organization of a State, the more sensitive it is to injury by interference with its normal routine. Two factors were especially operative in breaking down Germany's economic organization, and in causing a serious lack of food among a large proportion of her population.

"In the first place, the cessation of the import of chemical manures from abroad (especially phosphates and saltpetre) and the diversion of most of the ammonia and nitrates produced in the country to the manufacture of explosives caused a steady deterioration in the productivity of the soil. Moreover, the absence of imported concentrated feeding-stuffs greatly diminished the value of farmyard manure. The fall in the production of bread grain rendered it necessary to mill grain to the fullest possible extent (94 to 97 per cent), so that grain offals were also lacking for the feeding of cattle. Not only, therefore, was there a diminished production of vegetable food, but the absence of concentrated feeding-stuffs rendered it impossible to fatten cattle, and diminished to a marked extent the production of meat, and especially the production of fat.

"The second factor was the difficulty of attaining an equitable distribution of the foods actually available. In Germany the whole of the supplies, being produced in the country, had to be obtained from small and large farms. Throughout the country, the producer and his dependents in Germany have been well, or at any rate sufficiently, fed, and he has, during a time of insufficient production, always enjoyed more than his equitable share of the food. The food shortage has, therefore, only been felt as regards the inhabitants of the larger towns and industrial areas; i.e., between 28,000,000 and 30,000,000 of the population.

(To be continued)

TREND OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE.---According to a circular issued by the Federal Reserve Board, the following cable rates for foreign currencies are the lowest reached:

Date	Country	Currency	Present value	Par value
Nov. 20	England	Pound	\$4.025	\$4.8665
20	France	Franc	.1028	.193
20	Belgium	Franc	.111	.193
20	Italy	Lira	.0803	.193
20	Argentina	Peso	1.02	1.0365
18	Germany	Mark	.021	.2382
19	Poland	Mark	.014	.2382
19	Austria	Krone	.007	.2026